

BETTER Together

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



NEW
YORKERS
FOR
CHILDREN



BETTER

Together

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S *Note*



“The Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) is deeply grateful to our partners at NYFC for helping to administer critical programming for youth and families in the NYC child welfare and juvenile justice systems. With its broad range of services, NYFC meets the most pressing needs of the communities we serve. Over the past 25 years, we have learned that when ACS, NYFC, and our other community partners work together, we can achieve the best outcomes for New York City’s children, youth and families.



David A. Hansell
NYFC Board President
& ACS Commissioner

Dear NYFC Community,

The child welfare landscape in New York City is changing. More and more, people are recognizing the importance of giving back to the approximately 8,000 youth currently in foster care, and the nearly 650 youth who age out each year. Since 1996, New Yorkers For Children (NYFC) has been at the forefront of this work; but it would not be possible without our partners in the field.

Looking back on 2019, NYFC has truly been strengthened by the resiliency and hard work of the youth we serve, as well as by the dedication and generosity of our steadfast partners. This year’s theme – **BETTER TOGETHER** – describes what New Yorkers have always intrinsically known: that we are at our best when we lift each other up – not only as individuals or as a community, but as a city and a system.

NYFC has worked for nearly 25 years to enroll foster youth in college, support them through graduation, and help them gain the skills needed to enter the workforce. We do this by providing critical wraparound supports such as one-on-one academic coaching and mental health support, scholarships, youth development events, technology for schoolwork, peer support networks, and emergency funding as needed. As a key member of our community and partner in our work, none of this would be possible without your support. Here are just a few of 2019’s notable outcomes:

Expanding our **Signature Programs** portfolio to include new initiatives, such as:

- The **Financial Empowerment Fund Scholarship**, launched in partnership with First Republic Bank, was designed to ease the financial burden of pursuing a college education and prevent students from incurring debt. Through tailored one-on-one coaching with a First Republic employee, students learn how to navigate student loans, the basics of budgeting, establishing credit, savings accounts, and more.
- The **Peer Mentoring Program**, an extension of our longstanding Youth Advisory Board, where older or aged out foster youth complete a Peer-to-Peer Training Program where they gain experience with leadership, life skills, creating healthy relationships, and giving academic advice. Peer Mentoring provides a much-needed support system while also giving older youth the opportunity to receive a portable credential that can be included on their résumé. So far, 60 mentors have been trained, with the older youth helping the younger students navigate college and transitioning out of the child welfare system. We seek to expand and deepen this work in 2020.

- Launching **Bridge Scholars**, with the help of Bridge Investment Group, in order to support 40 older or aged out foster youth living in or attending school in Queens. The majority of the grant will provide one year of our signature Back to School Package Program for 38 youth; and the rest will support more substantial scholarships for 2 college students, who will be known as Bridge Scholars. Similar to our Nick's Scholars, these students will receive ample tuition support in addition to monthly one- on-one advising sessions with NYFC's Youth Academic Advisor.

As part of our **Innovative and Pilot Programs** portfolio, we:

- Built upon the progress we made in 2018 in bringing the **LifeSet** model to New York City. In 2019, NYFC staff completed a rigorous training in order to establish the capacity and infrastructure to scale the program to be incorporated by additional NYC foster care agencies. The LifeSet model is an evidence-informed and community-based program that provides a comprehensive array of services and tightly regulated supports over a one-year period to transition-age youth in foster care, including daily living and basic life skills, employment and education coaching, financial literacy, relationship supports, and more.

As you can see, together with our scholars, community and corporate partners, and individual supporters, 2019 was a truly special year for NYFC. **Thank you for taking this journey with us.** I am deeply grateful for the commitment you have made to improve the lives of our city's most exceptional youth. We are all in this together, and we are all better together. Your continued support of NYFC and the resilient young people we serve will have a lasting impact – not only on our students, but on the city we all call home – for generations to come.

With gratitude,

Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez
Executive Director

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WHO WE *Are*



As the nonprofit partner of New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS), New Yorkers For Children protects, ensures, and promotes the safety and well-being of NYC's children and families, with an emphasis on youth in foster care.

Our Unique Role

Since 1996, NYFC has partnered closely with ACS and all 26 of the city's foster care agencies to meet the needs of children, youth, and families from the New York City child welfare system. Serving approximately 1,000 youth ages 18-26 annually through our direct services and innovative pilot programming, our goal is to enroll youth in foster care and youth who have aged out of care in college, support them through graduation, and help them gain the skills needed to enter the workforce.

Each and every youth that we serve has touched the NYC child welfare system by either being under the guardianship of ACS and/or in the care of a foster care agency at some point in their lives. As an independent nonprofit, we have the flexibility to meet our youth where they are, and get them the support they need. Our mission is to be the shoulder our youth can lean on through their transition out of foster care, through college, and beyond.

Signature Programs

Approximately 600 youth participate in our direct services programming annually, which consists of academic scholarships, wraparound supports (such as academic advising, financial coaching, and mental health support), career



and youth development events, technology for schoolwork, emergency funding, and a network of adult and peer support. When layered together as they are designed to be, NYFC programming provides youth with what they need to succeed in post-secondary education, the world of work, and independent adulthood.

Innovative Programs

NYFC collaborates with an array of key partners in the child welfare community, educational institutions, ACS, and foster care agencies to pilot innovative programs to meet the most pressing needs of the children and families whom we collectively serve. These initiatives include compassionate juvenile justice, educational and career-focused programs, curricula to better support LGBTQ+ youth, and deeper supports for current foster youth and those who have aged out.

WHAT WE *Do*





SIGNATURE *Programs*

The **Back to School Package Program (BTS)** has provided approximately 600 youth enrolled in college or a vocational program annually with the tools they need to succeed in school since 1999. The package consists of a brand-new laptop and \$200 worth of gift cards annually for expenses such as textbooks for up to 5 years; as well as a heartfelt letter from NYFC staff wishing them good luck with their studies. To date, BTS has ensured nearly 12,000 youth have the flexibility to remain connected no matter what; while also serving as the introduction for many youth to NYFC's larger suite of services.

593 gift cards distributed, totaling

\$59,300

of textbook support

In 2019, BTS provided

\$144,740

in total support



582 packages
distributed
to 498 youth



178

laptops

distributed,
totaling \$85,400

The **Nicholas Scoppetta Scholarship Program** has supported youth pursuing their Bachelor's and Associate's Degrees from enrollment through graduation since 2006. For up to 5 years, scholars receive one-on-one college advisement and coaching from NYFC's Youth Academic Advisor, monthly stipends to cover living expenses, tuition assistance, various networking and community-building events, referrals to personalized services such as academic tutoring, housing resources, specialized career counseling, private mental health services, and more.

\$216,723

in support distributed

to 24 Nick's scholars in 2019



95%

of scholars

re-enrolled from
semester to
semester



72%

graduated on time

40%

graduated with an
Associate's Degree

60%

graduated with
a Bachelor's Degree

NYFC Emergency Funds were created to meet the urgent needs of youth who are enrolled in college or an accredited vocational program, ages 18-26, so they can continue their educations uninterrupted. The Charles Evans Educational Emergency Fund has supported young adults who have aged out of NYC foster care since 2006. Due to the popularity of the Charles Evans Fund, NYFC launched the In-Care Emergency Fund in August 2018 specifically for youth who are still in foster care.

\$77,618

of total emergency
funding distributed
to 47 youth in 2019

**24 youth were
aged out of
foster care;**
23 youth were
still in care



How Funds Were Used:

78%

covered tuition, textbooks,
and other miscellaneous
school supplies

22%

covered housing and costs
associated with housing
such as rent, utility bills,
and furnishing; along with
"Other" requests (such
as childcare and medical
emergencies)

The Spirit Award is a merit-based scholarship awarded to hardworking students attending a four-year college with plans to complete a Bachelor's Degree. Since 2004, this scholarship has given up to \$20,000 worth of total scholarship funding to outstanding scholars annually.

\$15,000

Total \$ distributed to two Spirit Award winners:

Yenifer (22) Junior at City College

Liberal Arts Major | GPA 2.9
Hopes for career in psychology
Aged out of care

Marie (21) Junior at SUNY Plattsburgh

English Major | GPA 3.78
Hopes to be a nonprofit CEO
Still in care

The Financial Empowerment Fund, our newest merit-based scholarship, was established in 2019 in partnership with First Republic Bank to help ease the financial burden of pursuing a Bachelor's Degree. Five scholars were awarded up to \$5,000 each, and were assigned a First Republic Bank volunteer to serve as their Financial Coach. Once per semester, the students and coaches met to discuss such topics as navigating student loan debt, establishing credit, the basics of budgeting, money management, filing taxes, and more!

\$22,245

in total scholarship funds distributed to 5 youth through the Financial Empowerment Fund

The Youth Advisory Board (YAB), a peer-led initiative, has ensured that NYFC programming continues to meet the needs and concerns of young people in New York City foster care since 2007. The group is made of current and former foster youth, ages 15-26, who meet monthly to support each other as they navigate the transition from care into independent adulthood, enter college, and pursue meaningful careers. Based on youth feedback, NYFC launched the **YAB Peer Mentoring Program** in 2019, where older youth are trained as certified Peer Mentors and matched with younger youth to help them transition out of the child welfare system, navigate college, and establish successful independent adulthoods. Read more about our newest youth initiative on pages 12 and 13!

Youth Advisory Board



13 dedicated youth ambassadors



12 meetings held and 6 workshops

Topics focused on by youth: advocacy, career mentoring, peer mentoring, study abroad, financial aid, college application process, housing resources, and additional opportunities for youth in foster care

Network to Success (NTS) is NYFC's signature non-scholarship youth development event that seeks to expose high school and college aged youth from the wider NYC foster care community to a variety of careers, related educational prerequisites, and skills needed to successfully enter the workforce from an empowered position. Since 2003, NYFC staff, board of directors, donors, corporate partners, and other volunteers have come together to share their career expertise and engage in meaningful ways with our youth. The event consists of a panel of experts across various fields, a Q & A, and activity stations where youth learn skills such as resume writing, interviewing, personal branding, and more.

Innovative Program highlights from 2019 include serving 121 youth through the LifeSet Program via two foster care agencies, Children's Aid and New York Foundling. If you remember from last year's annual report, the LifeSet model seeks to provide transition-age youth in foster care with daily living and basic life skills, employment and education coaching, financial literacy, social supports that help establish strong adult relationships, and more.

2019 NYFC Scholarship Outcomes

We served youth from all 26 of NYC's foster care agencies

103 institutions of higher learning represented

547 students served by NYFC's signature programs

121 students participated in multiple NYFC signature programs



of students transferred from a 2- to 4-year program



of youth who graduated received a Bachelor's Degree & 22% received an Associate's Degree



of students graduated on time or early

2019 Graduates

Meet some of our amazing alumni from the Nick's Scholars class of 2019. We are so proud of what these college grads have accomplished so far, and can't wait to see what they do next!

EMILY V. *Monroe College, Health Service Administration*

What She's Up to Now

Emily is utilizing her Health Service Administration degree working in the central registration department at Bronxcare Health System, where she registers patients and verifies their information, health insurance, and coverage for each service.

What's Next

Emily plans to go back to school within the year to pursue a Master's Degree in health information management.

What She Wants You to Know

"I encourage young people - especially youth in foster care - to gain experience in their field while still in college to build up their résumés, plan for the future, and be competitive. I encourage students to participate in NYFC networking and career planning events like Network to Success, attend career fairs, and join after school programs to help them prepare for life after foster care."



KING T. *City College of New York, English and Creative Writing*

What He's Up to Now

King is currently working full-time for a real estate and property management company, and also working part-time at Flocabulary, where he creates educational hip-hop music that is distributed to parents and students nationwide. It is important to him to continue working with organizations to reach youth of similar backgrounds and struggles, so that he can mentor, motivate, and inspire them to reach their full potential.

What's Next

King is currently seeking and applying to different scholarship opportunities, with dreams to go back to school (debt-free!) and pursue a business degree. In addition to being an entrepreneur, he wants to always stay true to his creative side and be a writer and artist.

What He Wants You to Know

"I'll never forget what it was like to be in foster care, prison, and homeless. As an advocate, I want other young people to understand that they have options: they can choose to stay buried inside systems, or they can pick themselves up and keep pushing forward toward success. Take advantage of every opportunity and seek out organizations, like New Yorkers For Children, that can help you achieve your goals."



MELANIE T. Bronx Community College, *Human Services*

What She's Up to Now

After earning her Associate's Degree, Melanie returned to school to pursue her Bachelor's Degree in Women and Gender Studies at Hunter College.

What's Next

Melanie hopes to continue her education by earning a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree, with the ultimate goal of one day opening a nonprofit focused on supporting both foster youth and victims of sex trafficking.

What She Wants You to Know

"Foster youth are no different than your average everyday young people. The only difference is that our experiences make us resilient. The road is not easy, but that's what makes it all the more rewarding at the end. I would encourage other youth in care to ask for help when you need it, and never be afraid to use your voice."



DEMETRIUS N. New York University, *Political Science*

What He's Up to Now

Demetrius recently returned from India where he worked to heal his trauma through studying yoga and meditation. He is now teaching both disciplines to at-risk youth, police officers, social workers, and juveniles at Rikers Island Correctional Facility. He was also the group leader of NYFC's Virtual 2020 Summer Internship where he and the other interns became certified Peer Educators and performed research to inform a wellbeing curriculum designed specifically for youth in foster care.



What's Next

Demetrius is building a nonprofit called Fostering Meditation, where he will teach foster care youth about self-care practices. He hopes to one day have his own meditation and yoga studio in Harlem to provide a safe and healing place for his community.

What He Wants You to Know

"I encourage everyone to spend time practicing self-care so they can be of full service to others, especially during the crazy times we're living in. Create a self-care routine that will allow you to live a more fulfilling and loving life!"

NADYIA H. Guttman Community College, *Liberal Arts & Science*

What She's Up to Now

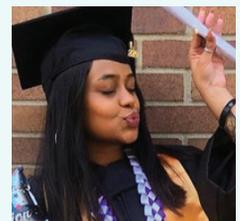
After earning her Associate's Degree, Nadyia returned to school to pursue her Bachelor's Degree in English at Hunter College.

What's Next

Nadyia hopes to become a high school English teacher after graduating.

What She Wants You to Know

"Being a Nick's Scholar has helped me immensely on my academic journey, from my Associate's Degree to my Bachelor's. NYFC staff have helped me set goals and given me the motivation needed to achieve them; not to mention all of the financial help with textbooks and tuition. Thank you, NYFC!"



BETTER TOGETHER WITH *Peer Mentoring*

Our Youth Advisory Board (YAB) was established in 2007 to ensure NYFC programming continues to meet the needs and concerns of young people in New York City foster care. This youth-led board is comprised of current and former foster youth who meet monthly to support each other as they navigate the transition from care into independent adulthood, enter college, and pursue meaningful careers. Many YAB participants, and foster youth in general, lack the resources and guidance that young people who grow up in more traditional environments often have – so our YAB members seek to be that support system for each other.

Building on the naturally occurring peer support aspect of the group, NYFC decided to expand the YAB to include a formal Peer Mentoring Program in 2019. Given that peers are the biggest influences in cognitive and social development for young people - and since research has shown that peer mentoring can reduce absenteeism and lower dropout rates among “at-risk” students - NYFC was confident that a Peer Mentoring Program would be embraced by our youth and particularly beneficial for the unique population that we serve. The goals of the YAB Peer Mentoring program are two-fold:

To help achieve these goals, NYFC partnered with the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) to provide training to older and aged out upperclassmen in college to become Certified Peer Educators who are equipped to work with younger high-school aged youth or underclassmen in college. The training provides mentors with the skills to: understand the power of peer education, create changes in high-risk behaviors, listen effectively, manage and respond to crises, act as an empowered bystander, give academic advice, hone presentation skills, create healthy relationships, and more. YAB mentors not only gain the skills to successfully support their mentees, but also learn leadership skills that will help them excel in their future careers and adult life.

We are thrilled with the newest addition to our signature programming so far. In 2019, 18 youth became certified peer mentors, and 5 successful mentee/mentor matches were facilitated through various group mixers and events. We have continued to create mentor/mentee pairs in 2020, and are excited to continue expanding this program!



1. Provide

the guidance that youth in care need to successfully enter and graduate from college.

2. Offer

a unique opportunity to YAB members where they gain leadership skills that can be used both in life and their future careers.

Hear what some of our youth have to say:



Dylan Mentor

"As a mentor, my journey has included learning about my mentee's personality, her educational goals, and our shared interests. Being the support system for someone as they age out of care – support that I wish I'd had – has been an incredibly rewarding experience. When youth feel seen, they are able to thrive and be the best versions of themselves. I am grateful to be part of a motivating force and learn about the importance and impact of peer-to-peer relationship development."



Aretha Mentor

"As a former foster youth, I know what it's like to not feel supported, and I wanted to give back and be that support. I believe in being the difference that I want to see in the world; and as a Mentor, I have the opportunity to do that. It is my privilege to mentor Josselyn. She is intelligent, kind-hearted, and resilient. I am honored to be a part of her journey and help her reach her fullest potential. The NYFC staff who I have worked with in the program – like Roxanna and Joi – are some of the most sincere and dedicated people I've ever met. It is better to serve than to be served; so thank you NYFC for serving one of the most vulnerable populations in NYC – youth in foster care."



India Mentor

"As a former foster youth who aged out of care, I know most youth have been through many traumas and feel that they must navigate them alone. But organizations like NYFC ensure that youth are not alone, and teach them how to help each other create positive change."



T'Coy Mentor

"The program has proven to be a safe space where former and current foster youth can learn and grow from one another. It is a judgment-free space where mentors and mentees feel comfortable enough to be vulnerable, share, and listen. Peer Mentoring helps give us all skills that we will need not only in our careers, but in life."



Tiffany Mentee

"My experience with this program has been really refreshing. I've learned the value of communication, friendship, and speaking up about my troubles and not being afraid to ask for help. It has brought a sense of relief."



Josselyn Mentee

"My mentor Aretha has been extremely supportive and encouraging, and has helped me achieve many of my goals. Whenever I'm discouraged or when obstacles from my personal life interfere with my school work, she helps me navigate them and motivates me to keep going and focus on school."

2019 *Financials*

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

December 31, 2019 and 2018

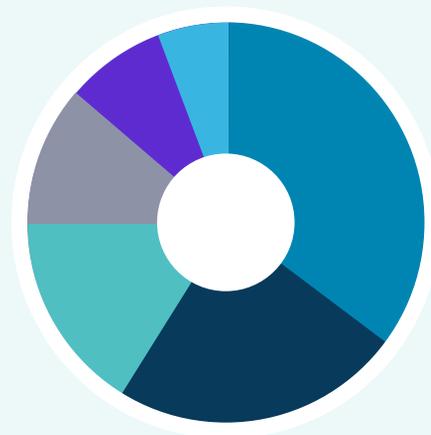
	2019	2018
Revenue		
● Individual	176,274	89,970
● Foundation and Corporate	685,004	3,165,415
● Government Grants	324,013	124,186
● Donated Materials & Services	115,189	257,971
● Special Events (net)	901,488	953,029
● Investment Income	387,465	(63,083)
Other Income	-	533
Total Revenue	2,589,433	4,528,021

Expenses

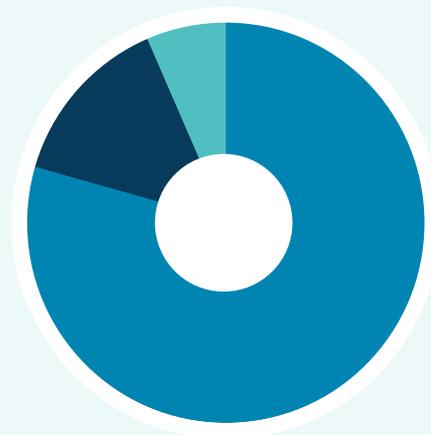
● Program Services	2,742,558	2,695,414
● Management	567,551	513,184
● Fundraising	175,482	409,936
Total Expenses	3,485,591	3,618,534

Change in Net Assets	(896,158)	909,487
Net Assets - Beginning of the year	7,861,835	6,952,348
Net Assets - End of the year	6,965,677	7,861,835

2019 REVENUE



2019 EXPENSES



“New Yorkers For Children is a critically important organization, working through innovative programs to support ACS by improving outcomes for youth in the child welfare system in New York City. My colleagues and I at Proskauer have been privileged to be associated with this impressive enterprise, and to work directly with its dedicated and effective Board of Directors and Staff. We have been enriched by the experience. I am a New Yorker For Children!”



Ira Golub
Proud NYFC
Board Member

PROSKAUER ROSE LLP

For the past 4 years, Proskauer Rose LLP has been a loyal Corporate Partner of New Yorkers For Children, supporting everything from our annual gala to offering pro bono legal services.

Proskauer has a long history of public service and a distinctive pro bono program that enables its lawyers to make a broad impact through a variety of projects. Through the end of 2019, Proskauer has generously provided NYFC with countless hours of diligent counsel amounting to well over \$500,000 of expert legal services in such areas as reviewing tenant lease agreements and employee manuals, to helping us iron out multi-year program grant agreements and endowment fund policies.

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our devoted Board Member Ira Golub for always providing a guiding hand and looking out for NYFC's best interests. As a Partner in Proskauer's Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation Group, Ira is responsible for connecting NYFC with the wonderful team of Malerie Bulot, Laura Fant, Robert Freeman, Edward Kornreich, Arianna Lacerte, Rachel Pillion, Jillian Ruben, Seth Safra and Theresa Smith, who have given their time and talents. Thank you to Ira and his colleagues at Proskauer for generously investing their time and expertise to benefit New York City's children, youth, and families. We are eternally grateful.

NYFC Staff

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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Micheline Levine
Dorina Spelman Link & Robert O. Link
William Brian & Judith A. Little Charitable Trust
Carol I. MacKinnon Fox
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Scott & Candice Posner
Richard & Emilie Powers
Quad Family Foundation

Steven Rubenstein
Jane Hartley & Ralph
Schlosstein
Leila and Mickey Straus
Family Foundation
William S. Susman &
Emily L. Glasser

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Sammy Aaron
Lisa Andriulli
Nicole & Leo Arnaboldi
Henry Bean & Leora Banish
Mitchell Berg & Leni
Klaimitz
Marci & Javier Bleichmar
David Blum & Terri Minsky
Joseph Boateng
The Henry & Wendy Breck
Foundation
Lane Brettschneider
Adam Brooks & Kerri
Kwinter
David & Alison Cody
Eugenia Comini
Kathryn Conroy & Ellen
R. Lippman
The Leibner Cooper
Family Foundation
Jennifer Cox
Kyle DeWoody
Stephen C. Freidheim
Foundation
Celeste Frye
Robert Fuentes
Cinthia Gil & Oscar Gil
Vollmer
Allyson Gilbert
Stacey Gillis Weber and
Jeffrey A. Weber Fund
Esteban Gomez
Vartan & Clare R.
Gregorian
Louise Grunwald
Bette-Ann Gwathmey
David A. Hansell & Rob
Cimino
The Jeanne & Herbert
Hansell Fund
Georgina Homolka



Thank You!

Thank you for joining us on this journey
to ensure better outcomes for youth in
NYC foster care. We are better together!

Sally Horchow
James Newton Howard
& Annica Howard
Ron and Cheryl Howard
Charitable Fund
Joseph & Ellen Kaidanow
Michael & Andre Koester
Tom Kane & Yun Lee
Kate Karet & Jeff Levick
Ann W. & Richard
LaGravenese
Samuel Lindsay
Fran Lukas
Robert & Leola MacDonald
Randy Mastro & Jonine
Bernstein
Jennifer H. Mieres &
Haskel Fleishaker
George & Andrea Miller
Lisa & Philip Miller

Scott & Flo Miller
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